

Radio Stamps
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Hello again, and welcome to the seventh edition of *Radio Stamps* in 1993. A special welcome, as always, if you're listening to the program for the first time. This is program number 33, and the subject today is radio at war on stamps.

Like shortwave listening and DXing, collecting stamps on the topic of radio is a lot of fun. There are always new stamp targets to hunt for and, like DXing, a stamp collection can be started, stopped and picked up again at any time. When DX conditions are poor, I often turn to my interest in collecting radio stamps. Like DXing, I have a small budget and I don't have to spend a fortune to enjoy my stamp interest in the radio hobby.

I started my topical collection on radio with a few stamps that commemorated the radio stations I first heard on shortwave. These included HCJB, Radio Canada International and the Voice of America. Over the years I found and collected many other stamps that featured actual radio stations. I've included quite a few of these on the *Radio Stamps* program, here on HCJB. I'll be featuring many others in programs to come.

When I discovered the exciting world of amateur radio communications, I decided to add ham radio stamps to my collection. My collecting interests have grown to include most aspects of radio. These include stamps that commemorate, or include in their design, radio stations, broadcasting services, radio pioneers, amateur radio, radio in the Arctic, and a host of other radio subjects. My collecting interests correspond to my listening interests. If I can hear it on my radio, I'm interested in it.

My stamp collecting list has 32 different radio subjects, and there are probably many more. Radio receivers, radio at sea, radio in the air, and radio listening are just a few of the other subjects I collect on the topic of radio. Radio stations is certainly a popular subject for many collectors. Starting with a radio subject that has a special interest to you is a wise recommendation.

In my early explorations of the shortwave bands, I learned to recognize marine and aviation radio traffic. I was convinced that my collection of radio stamps wouldn't be complete until I added utility radio to my topic. I also learned to recognize military radio communications. A day doesn't go by without hearing about military conflict or war in the world. Some fascinating shortwave radio communications can be heard going to and from trouble spots around the globe.

Radio at war is another fascinating subject you can collect on stamps. The advantages of radio telegraphy over wire telegraphy were recognized during the first world war. Telegraph wires were easily broken from shell explosions, vehicles and horses. By the time the second world war started, great improvements were made in mobile radio systems. Mike Stone from Virginia sent me a nice postcard that shows soldiers from the American signal corps with a mobile radio unit in action. I have three postage stamps for you today that show mobile radio units in action at war.

The first is a Soviet postage stamp, issued on May 4, 1960, to honour General Tcherniakovski, a hero of the second world war. The Scott catalogue number is 2322. The second is a Polish stamp which was part

of a set of 8 special stamps issued on November 1, 1943, by the Polish government in exile in Great Britain. This unique set was issued for letters posted by Polish merchant ships and warships. The Scott catalogue number of the mobile radio stamp is 3K12. The third stamp is a semi-postal issue from March 21, 1943, as part of a set of 12 stamps from Germany for Army Day and Hero Memorial Day. The Scott catalogue number is B221. Each of these distinctive stamps shows a mobile radio unit in war action. Other stamps from around the world show ground-to-aircraft radio in operation and a noted French resistance hero and radio commentator during the second world war. There were also unique radio stamps and radio postal cancellations used on military mail from field posts during the war. Radio at war certainly makes a great subject for a specialized stamp collection on the topic of radio.

That's all for today. Just a reminder too that your comments and suggestions for improvements to the program are always welcome. I hope too that you'll write with news of new issues or finds of radio stamps from your part of the world. I look forward to hearing from you. Here's my mailing address. Neil Carleton, that's spelled N-e-i-l C-a-r-l-e-t-o-n, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, spelled A-l-m-o-n-t-e, Ontario, spelled O-n-t-a-r-i-o. The postal code here in Canada is K0A 1A0. The address again is Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0, Canada.

Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.